

Message

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**From:** Stepp, Cathy [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=BEFDAFC0FA1A425EAE232F60AD9BDA1D-STEPP, CATH]  
**Sent:** 2/11/2019 3:22:09 PM  
**To:** Thiede, Kurt [thiede.kurt@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** Re: Sterigenics newsclips

Indeed. This:

In the coming days, I'm going to be calling on Congress to conduct oversight, so we can hold the EPA accountable," said U.S. Rep. Dan Lipinski (D-IL 3)

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 11, 2019, at 9:06 AM, Thiede, Kurt <[thiede.kurt@epa.gov](mailto:thiede.kurt@epa.gov)> wrote:

## Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Kurt Thiede  
Chief of Staff  
EPA Region 5

Sent from my iPhone...please excuse my typos.

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Kelley, Jeff" <[kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov)>  
**Date:** February 11, 2019 at 8:53:19 AM CST  
**To:** "Thiede, Kurt" <[thiede.kurt@epa.gov](mailto:thiede.kurt@epa.gov)>  
**Cc:** "Stepp, Cathy" <[stepp.cathy@epa.gov](mailto:stepp.cathy@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Sterigenics newsclips

I haven't heard anything from them

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**Jeff Kelley**  
*Director, Office of External Communications*  
U.S. EPA Region 5  
ph: 312-353-1159

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**From:** Thiede, Kurt  
**Sent:** Monday, February 11, 2019 8:52 AM  
**To:** Kelley, Jeff <[kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov)>  
**Cc:** Stepp, Cathy <[stepp.cathy@epa.gov](mailto:stepp.cathy@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Sterigenics newsclips

Jeff,

## Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Thanks,  
Kurt

Kurt Thiede  
Chief of Staff  
EPA Region 5

Sent from my iPhone...please excuse my typos.

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Arcaute, Francisco" <Arcaute.Francisco@epa.gov>  
**Date:** February 11, 2019 at 8:41:35 AM CST  
**To:** "Rowan, Anne" <rowan.anne@epa.gov>, "Stepp, Cathy" <stepp.cathy@epa.gov>, "Thiede, Kurt" <thiede.kurt@epa.gov>, "Kelley, Jeff" <kelley.jeff@epa.gov>, "Nam, Ed" <nam.ed@epa.gov>, "Nelson, Leverett" <nelson.leverett@epa.gov>, "Grantham, Nancy" <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>, "Konkus, John" <konkus.john@epa.gov>, "Singer, Joshua" <Singer.Joshua@epa.gov>, "Deamer, Eileen" <deamer.eileen@epa.gov>, "Bassler, Rachel" <Bassler.Rachel@epa.gov>, "Richardson, RobinH" <Richardson.RobinH@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** Sterigenics newsclips

**Sterigenics newsclips**  
**February 11, 2019**

**WBBM**                      **Residents, Lawmakers Demand**  
**Trump Admin Shut Down Dangerous Plant**

**WGNTV**                      **Illinois leaders call upon EPA to**  
**shut down Sterigenics**

**ABC7**                      **Lawmakers join call to stop**  
**Sterigenics from operating in Willowbrook**

**CBS Chicago**                      **Lawmakers Urge Sterigenics To**  
**Answer Questions From Former Employees**

**Six Lawmakers Call For Sterigenics**  
**To Shut Down - CBS Chicago - CBS 2**

<https://wbbm780.radio.com/articles/news/residents-lawmakers-demand-trump-admin-shut-down-sterigenics-plant>

## Residents, Lawmakers Demand Trump Admin Shut Down Dangerous Plant

**STEVE MILLER**

FEBRUARY 08, 2019 - 6:53 PM



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**CHICAGO (WBBM NEWSRADIO)** -- West suburban politicians and families who live near the Sterigenics plant in Willowbrook are demanding that the Trump administration shut down that facility — based on the latest testing of the air quality.

The EPA has found even higher levels of cancer-causing ethylene oxide in the area around the Willowbrook plant, but the agency wants to wait for more testing before taking any action. At a press conference at Chicago's EPA headquarters at the Metcalfe Federal Building, Congressman Dan Lipinski said that behavior is unacceptable.

Frank Trilla, mayor of Willowbrook and other residents of the town voiced concern for the plant's health effects on the

community. People had shirts and signs protesting the plant, which has been an issue for the community for years.

Lipinski (D-IL 3rd District) is joined by Sen. Dick Durbin, Sen. Tammy Duckworth, Rep. Bill Foster, Rep. Brad Schneider and Rep. Sean Casten, who all released a statement about the dangers of the plant and the government needs to take immediate action.

"U.S. EPA is still saying, 'Wait.' But we should not be waiting," Lipinski said at the conference.

Joanna Chlystek, who was also at the press conference, lives in Darien, about a mile from the plant.

"My daughter always keeps coughing, and the doctors don't know what it is," Chlystek said. "We've been living next to a plant that keeps emitting poison."

Sri Rao lives less than one mile away from the plant and wants government help to fix this health crisis.

"We depend on the government to help us. And we thought that they would," Rao said. "And they're not."

Sterigenics said its plant "has a proven record of operating safely and in compliance with applicable regulations."

<https://wgntv.com/2019/02/08/leaders-call-upon-epa-to-shut-down-sterigenics/>

### **Illinois leaders call upon EPA to shut down Sterigenics**

Posted 6:00 PM, February 8, 2019, by Meghan Dwyer,  
Updated at 11:04PM, February 8, 2019

CHICAGO — Local officials are calling on the Environmental Protection Agency to shut down the Willowbrook Sterigenics plant before anyone else gets sick. Leaders gathered in the lobby of the EPA headquarters Friday to send a message: The EPA is supposed to keep the public safe and it's time that they stepped in to protect the people of Willowbrook.

Sterigenics uses ethylene oxide to sterilize medical equipment, pharmaceutical drugs and food.

People who live nearby said that chemical is giving them cancer.

Last summer, the company said it installed equipment to reduce emissions. But when the EPA recently re-tested the air the results were alarming.

“Now we have testing that shows it’s much worse than what was originally found two months ago,” Rep. Dan Lipinski said.

Community members called it a public health crisis and they want the plant shuttered until it can operate safely.

Governor J.B. Pritzger tweeted during the election calling for Sterigenics to be closed down immediately.

Since taking office Pritzger has not explicitly called for the plant to be shut down. But Friday he said he wants to see concrete steps taken to protect people’s health and if that doesn’t happen he will take legal steps with the attorney general. His office released a statement saying:

While there were several issues discussed Thursday with representatives from the U.S. EPA, Sterigenics and the Illinois EPA, this administration must see more immediate, concrete steps taken to secure residents’ health and safety. In the absence of concrete steps, we will work with the Office of the Attorney General to exercise all available legal authority to protect the community.

Other elected officials agreed.

“The EPA is responsible for protecting public health,” Lipinski said. “The EPA is failing to do that.”

Sterigenics said earlier this week there is not enough information to draw conclusions about what impact its plant is having on people’s health.

Friday they released a new statement saying the latest testing shows ethylene oxide is only present in “extremely low levels in the atmosphere...” and any action to shut them down would set an “extremely bad precedent.”

Sterigenics met with the EPA yesterday. It’s unclear what the outcome was of that meeting. The EPA did not return WGN News’s request for comment.

<https://abc7chicago.com/health/lawmakers-join-call-to-stop-sterigenics-from-operating-in-willowbrook/5128496/>

## Lawmakers join call to stop Sterigenics from operating in Willowbrook

Some top Illinois lawmakers joined in asking the Environmental Protection Agency to immediately force Sterigenics in Willowbrook to stop operating due to concerns about emissions o

By [Eric Horng](#)

Friday, February 08, 2019 06:26PM

CHICAGO (WLS) –

Some top Illinois lawmakers joined in asking the Environmental Protection Agency to immediately force Sterigenics in Willowbrook to stop operating due to concerns about emissions of a cancer-causing chemical.

Sterigenics says it's operating well within regulatory limits, and the EPA said it's too early to draw conclusions about potential health risks. But the calls for action are only growing louder.

"We need to have them shut down. They might have a permit to operate, but they don't have a permit to create a public health crisis," said Burr Ridge Acting Mayor Zach Mottl.

A bipartisan coalition of lawmakers gathered at the Federal Building Chicago's Loop that houses offices for the EPA.

Earlier this week the EPA released results from its latest round of air quality monitoring around the Sterigenics plant. The data, from late November through much of December, showed higher-than-previously-recorded levels of the toxic chemical ethylene oxide, which Sterigenics uses for various purposes, including sterilizing medical equipment.

The EPA said testing continues, but several public officials said the time for waiting is over.

"It is now time for Sterigenics to operate as a good corporate citizen and immediately shut down their facility before the state or federal regulators do so," said State House Minority Leader Jim Durkin.

"In the coming days, I'm going to be calling on Congress to conduct oversight, so we can hold the EPA accountable," said U.S. Rep. Dan Lipinski (D-IL 3)

In a statement, Sterigenics said it "...has a proven record of operating safely and in compliance with applicable regulations ... Any action to shut down a business operating

well within regulatory limits, based on incomplete data taken out of context, sets an extremely bad precedent."

The EPA said testing continues and it plans to do a full risk assessment which will be completed at some point this spring.

<https://chicago.cbslocal.com/video/4025776-lawmakers-urge-sterigenics-to-answer-questions-from-former-employees/>

### **Lawmakers Urge Sterigenics To Answer Questions From Former Employees - CBS Chicago - CBS 2**

<https://chicago.cbslocal.com/video/4025897-six-lawmakers-call-for-sterigenics-to-shut-down/>

### **Six Lawmakers Call For Sterigenics To Shut Down - CBS Chicago - CBS 2**

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